

SPRING 2021

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Spokesman

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ON THE COVER:
New MFBF District 4 Director Casey Mott in the branding pen.

Photo by Rebecca Colnar.

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Ed Bandel
District 8 Director, MFBF

“ The BSCNHA group wants to share the heritage of Montana with others, but in doing so they threaten the heritage of the property owners of the state. ”

Proposed heritage area **poses threat to private land ownership**

First of all, I would like to thank President McPherson for the opportunity to take over his column this issue. He has seen the importance of our fight in the matter of the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area (BSCNHA) and volunteered his space so I can share my knowledge about this disturbing topic.

As a landowner in Chouteau and Cascade counties, I am strongly opposed to the designation of the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area. The BSCNHA is a push by a small non-profit of the same name to have all of Cascade and part of Chouteau counties designated as a heritage area to increase tourism by the development of projects and programs that highlight our heritage. A heritage area is overseen by the National Park Service and the Secretary of Interior. It is designated by Congress and would include privately owned land, both urban and rural. Congress can change what is included in the heritage area, potentially including the entire state. The board that controls the heritage area is self-appointed, and as landowners, we would have no recourse to any decisions they make.

The BSCNHA non-profit organization has produced a feasibility study that will soon be sent to the National Park Service for approval and then on to Congress. The study claims to have had many public meetings and tremendous community support. Until recently however, it seems very few members of the public had any knowledge of this study. As for support, the commissioners in both counties passed motions of non-support. The Montana Farm Bureau and most of the other agriculture organizations in the state have policy opposing the BSCNHA as well. The towns of Belt and Cascade have opposed the designation. In Great Falls, the Great Falls Realtors and Great Falls Homebuilders Associations are in opposition.

I have met with the BSCNHA executive board and tried to suggest ways they and those opposed

could work together to achieve their goals without our fear of infringing on our property rights. During the meeting I even suggested they continue to raise money in their non-profit and simply drop the federal designation. I even offered a donation if they would take my suggestion. However, after meeting with the board, it is clear that they want the federal money and don't want to give up the power they would have under this designation. In addition, their proposed budget after five years would only apply 33 percent of the funds to projects. The remaining budget would be divided between directors' compensation, operations, travel and promotion.

What is blatantly obvious is there is already so much in place in Cascade and Chouteau counties to protect our history and heritage including the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, the C. M. Russell Museum, the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, as well as several good museums in Fort Benton. Did you know there are already 55 state parks and nine National Park Service areas in Montana? As for money, there are already government grants available for working with additional historic sites.

My main reasons for opposing this designation are as follows:

1. The fear of the unknown
2. The potential threat to our property rights
3. The self-appointed board with no recourse for landowners
4. The poor use of our taxpayer dollars

Time is of the essence and it's critical that we flood the National Park Service and our members of Congress with letters and emails. Please go to the Montana Farm Bureau website (www.mfbf.org) and use the Voter Voice tab to send a pre-written letter, or better yet, write one of your own.

This BSCNHA group wants to share the heritage of Montana with others, but in doing so they threaten the heritage of the property owners of the state.



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The Politics of “Politics”

As I mentioned in my editorial in the *Winter Spokesman*, I assumed that the world would return to a more normal state (for at least a few months) with the presidential election behind us. In retrospect, I think politics has become such an integral part of people's lives that normalcy is no longer possible.

When I was growing up, politics was in the periphery of our lives. We learned of government and the two-party system in school with talk of great statesmen. “Regular” people occasionally saw our elected leaders. I remember the first time my friends and I saw the Montana governor riding his horse in the Livingston Roundup parade on his black and white saddle with all the silver trappings. He left a huge impression on me.

Today our leaders are visible in the electronic media and print media daily, either through their own posts or from people or organizations representing opposition or support. Years ago, elected officials were held in respect due to their positions and demeanor and the fact that we didn't see every move they made or hear their most private conversations. My parents talked of politics and I can remember them occasionally mentioning cancelling each other's vote in an election but it was not a driving factor in who their friends were, what television channel they watched (who am I kidding, we only got one channel) or what professional sports team they supported. Fast forward to today; you cannot tune into any television show without some rancorous comments about a politician, many of them bordering on cruel and hateful. Professional sports games have become venues for athletes to protest for or against any number of politicians or issues.

When is the last time you watched an awards show on television? Judging by the ratings, not many people watch those awards shows any more. If you do, you are treated to acceptance speeches with profanity-laced diatribes against political figures or positions. I could go on with talk shows, education, and even religion. Today, we are even judged by the friends we keep and their political viewpoints.

What has changed in the last 25 years

that has so divided people and created such polarity between political parties? In my opinion several things have led to this trend. Electronic media in the name of transparency has played a role in the schism. Social media is fairly anonymous, so even when we know the people making the posts, they are not in front of us, so they have no compulsion to truth, politeness or other social norms. This leads to outrageous statements, and I trust fact checkers about as far as I can drop-kick an anvil. Television and print news have been demonized as being biased, and perhaps rightly so. People now listen to the news source they trust and are sure the other sources are lying. This results in us listening only to the choir that preaches what we want to hear and

receiving little opposing viewpoints.

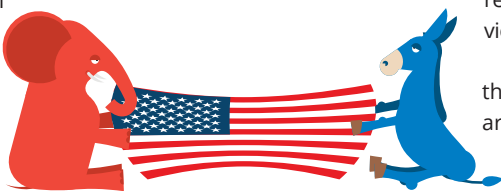
Who do we trust for the real story? Leaders are constantly filmed and recorded by bystanders, with the press trying to

catch them in a faux pas that will be on the evening news or going viral. I am amazed we still have people willing to put themselves in a position for this kind of scrutiny.

The gerrymandering of voting districts has also played into the divide. In an effort to ensure control of Congress and State Houses, the parties have created voting districts that lean to their political ideologies so none of the folks running have to try to attract the middle-of-the-road voter. This allows them to play to the extreme fringes of either party and still assure election.

In Montana we have rural districts that loop over cities so as to not dilute the conservative vote and districts that are entirely contained in more liberal sections of cities to keep the pot pure for our more liberal cousins. This has created a plethora of politicians but sadly, few statesmen. To quote my brother, we need more Americans and fewer #!&*#% politicians.

It's sad to see a country as great as America, which was founded on the open exchanges of ideas and free speech, to arrive at the divisive place it is today. We can only hope more sensible heads prevail in the coming days and we are to keep our republic the peaceful, respectful country that our founders intended.



John Youngberg
Executive Vice President, MFBF

“It's sad to see a country as great as America, which was founded on the open exchanges of ideas and free speech, to arrive at the divisive place it is today. We can only hope more sensible heads prevail in the coming days.”





Zippy Duvall
President, American Farm
Bureau Federation

“A year in, the #StillFarming campaign continues to be a great platform to share our farm stories with consumers, and I hope we’ll all continue to build on the engagement of the last year.”

A Year Later #StillFarming

Over the last year, America’s farmers and ranchers have reached over 100 million people with #StillFarming. It started as a simple message, a year ago this week, to reassure folks that we were still on the job, committed to getting food to everyone’s tables when the American Farm Bureau tweeted: “Farmers & ranchers are #StillFarming—providing for the nation during these challenging times.”

Of course, that statement had been true of agriculture long before the COVID-19 pandemic, but folks easily lose sight of agriculture’s importance to our society and national security, especially the further removed from the farm most Americans get. With farmers making up just 2% of the population and most Americans living in suburban and urban areas far from farmland, the connection to the farm has largely been lost for consumers. Many had taken for granted that food would always be on hand at the nearest store or market. If that isn’t a sure sign of how reliable the American farmer and food system is, and has been for centuries, I don’t know what is.

None of us will soon forget what it was like to see grocery shelves wiped out, dairy and meat cases empty, and produce bins picked clean. I didn’t expect to see anything like that in my lifetime, and I hope and pray we never do again. Farmers and ranchers never wavered in our commitment to get food to Americans who needed it most. The #StillFarming campaign became a megaphone for farmers and ranchers to reassure the public that we were on the frontlines alongside our employees growing and harvesting the food we all depend on. We were part of a massive effort to both redirect restaurant supplies to grocery stores and to restock empty food bank shelves. It required the dedication of farmers, charities, and government leaders to meet the need.

That’s not to say there weren’t real challenges and heartbreaking losses. This pandemic has not left any of us untouched, but even in the darkest times there have been glimmers of hope and the resilience of the human spirit. We saw those glimmers across our communities, from the frontline healthcare workers to volunteers who showed up, even at personal risk, to serve those in need.

I have often remarked throughout this

last year that a silver lining we have seen in agriculture is how consumers gained a greater understanding and appreciation of where their food comes from. In fact, an AFBF survey found that farmers are among the most trusted groups of professionals, with nearly 9 in 10 Americans expressing trust in farmers. We build that trust by sharing our story, and #StillFarming has been an amazing outlet for doing just that.

#StillFarming has reached far and wide. To date the hashtag has been used in all 50 states and more than 90 countries. That tremendous success is thanks to work across our state and county Farm Bureaus and grassroots members.

What’s more, trust in farmers and ranchers increased by 4%, even after consumers faced empty shelves and long food bank lines and heard the heartbreaking stories of farmers being forced to dump products that couldn’t be packaged and shipped due to supply chain breakdowns. How did trust still go up in such an uncertain time? I believe it’s because America’s farmers and ranchers showed the nation that we have their backs. We didn’t give up, we gave back. We showed our neighbors and our communities that feeding people truly is our mission. Across the Farm Bureau family, in 2020 alone, we have given \$5.4 million, 1.4 million pounds of food and over 20,000 gallons of milk to local food banks, food pantries and pandemic relief programs.

A year in, the #StillFarming campaign continues to be a great platform to share our farm stories with consumers, and I hope we’ll all continue to build on the engagement of the last year. I invite all of you to share your stories using the hashtag. It can be as simple as a tweet and a photo of what’s happening on your farm today or a video sharing more about how you grow crops or care for your animals. Rain or shine, pandemic or not, America’s farmers and ranchers are #StillFarming, and we will continue as long as there are people counting on the food, fiber and fuel we provide.

Building on the success of the #StillFarming campaign and our commitment to give back, AFBF presents a line of #StillFarming to Feed America T-shirts. ALL profits are donated to Feeding America and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.





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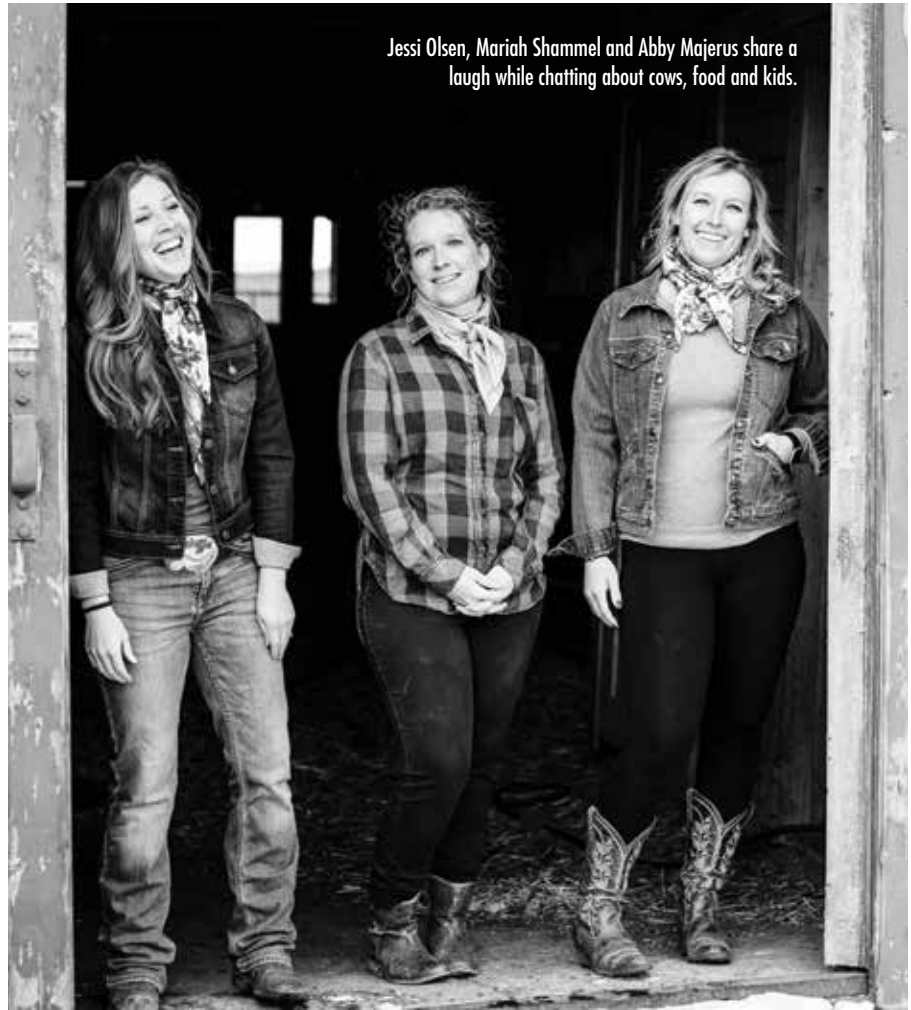
RancHERS Unite

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

I recently started a beef business, Montana RancHERS Beef Co., with two of my fellow rancHERS Jessi Olsen and Abby Majerus. It's been a steep learning curve. I've had to think about things I haven't pondered since college while trying to balance constant computer work, keeping the kids and calves alive and the husband conscious for his night checks, all while trying to keep the house clean. (Let's be honest, I've never leaned too hard into that one). This has resulted in a lot of coffee-sipping, wine-gulping and baggy under-eyes. With that being said, this endeavor hasn't felt like work one bit. It's been a complete blast to get to navigate new territory with these amazing women.

It's currently March, which is Women's History Month, and it's hard to go anywhere without hearing the stories of all the incredible ladies who have forever changed the face of our existence. From Susan B. Anthony to Sonia Sotomayor, Rosa Parks to Temple Grandin, women all over the world and across all genres have gone through unimaginable things to open doors for the generations that follow them.

Even this beef venture that Jessi, Abby and I have jumped headfirst into probably wouldn't have been an option to pursue in years past had it not been for the resilient women of agriculture who relentlessly plowed through traditional confines. With three ranches, three significant others, seven children between us and the lack of a "Y" chromosome, we wouldn't have been able to claim much more than being a housewife. We would have had a limited role in the operation, calling the kitchen, nursery and office our domain where we would feed people, tend to the kids and keep books balanced, all while maintaining a tidy home. For some of us, that isn't too far off from how we spend the majority of our days, but the difference is we have a choice. We have husbands/boyfriends who do their fair share of what used to



Jessi Olsen, Mariah Shammel and Abby Majerus share a laugh while chatting about cows, food and kids.



be "women's work." We don't get looked down upon for asking for help or getting takeout pizza, and paid accountants are our friends. If we want to be out driving combines and feeding cows, or if we want

to be off the ranch and send our kids to daycare, that's our decision to make.

When the three of us, who were only casual acquaintances when this whole thing started, had the hair-brained idea to join forces and create a full-fledged business that would introduce consumers to the people and places that raise their beef, there was nothing holding us back except ourselves. The looks on our significant others' faces...but that's a different story. We have options that generations of women before us never had and we are so thankful for that.

We lined out our goals, made a marketing plan and went for it. Montana RancHERS Beef Co. is now a bona fide business, offering beef eaters everywhere the same tasty, healthy, grass-fed beef our families have been enjoying for generations. We use our shared love of cows, food and people to help the average consumer understand what they're



eating while giving them the option to choose the precise portions and cuts to accommodate their families. We invite all of our customers, even those who aren't interested in sinking their teeth into one of our juicy steaks, to follow us on social media so they can get a first-hand look at the goings-on at our respective ranches. They can see exactly where the cattle roam, what we're feeding our animals, the types of interactions we have with our beef cows and how they're cared for. We want to bridge the gap between our ranches and our buyers' tables, give them three faces to put with the food they're serving and let them feel good about the beef they're eating.

What we're doing with our partnership isn't groundbreaking by any means, and we certainly don't expect to be included on the list of all those history-making ladies. Last time I checked, being knee-deep in poop (both the bovine-type and the little-human type) and having a pile of dishes didn't get you on any "You've Made It" lists.

“ Montana RanchERS Beef Co. offers beef eaters everywhere the same tasty, healthy, grass-fed beef our families have been enjoying for generations. We help the average consumer understand what they're eating while giving them the option to choose the portions and cuts to accommodate their families. ”

We are very aware that you don't have to be a Marie Curie or Catherine the Great to make a difference. We know that because our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters have taught us that, intentionally

or not. As the products of strong women, we've had the luxury of being shown that you don't have to be confined to one role, be it in the household, agriculture or anywhere else. If you can push that envelope just a little, you might make room for someone else to step in, fill the opening and take it even further. You'll find adversity wherever you go, but that doesn't mean you have to let it define who you are or who you want to be. They say it's a man's world out there but we three ladies have something to say about that.

For more information on Montana RanchERS Beef Co. head to <https://montanaranchersbeefco.com/> or find us on Instagram and Facebook.

Mariah Shammel is a rancher, wife and mom—and now a successful entrepreneur—who lives in Hilger, MT. She has four kids, lots of dogs, cats and chickens and even more cows.



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Meet new Montana Farm Bureau

District 4 Director Casey Mott

COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON/STILLWATER, SWEET GRASS AND YELLOWSTONE

Casey Mott was born and raised on his family's ranch in northern Utah in a ranching community that simply had a church, a post office and a two-room schoolhouse. From an early age, he was given responsibility, whether it was doing chores, being on haying equipment or heading out into a pasture to gather cattle.

"It was expected that we would do it. After all, if my brothers or I didn't do it, who would?" Mott remembered. The two-room schoolhouse went to ninth grade and after that, kids boarded in nearest large town with friends or relatives. While in school, he was involved in 4-H and FFA, showing steers at the Box Elder County Fair which was one of the largest county fairs in the region.

In the late 1970s the family moved from Utah to a ranch in northern Stillwater County in Montana. Upon graduating from Columbus High School in 1982, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. "I spent four years as an artilleryman where I traveled all over the Far East and had the opportunity to see Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea."

After being honorably discharged, he returned to the ranch and started college at Montana State University in Bozeman. However, Mott's life took a turn when he met his future wife, Rebecca. They were married in 1988 and lived in Virginia where he graduated from college with a bachelor's degree in U.S. History.

"I had some interesting jobs following college which included working for a number of museums, one being the Museum of the Confederacy, and I managed a 'living history' farm for several years where I had the opportunity to demonstrate mid-19th century farming techniques," Mott said.

However, even while doing the museum work, the pull of the Montana was great and Mott spent several summers on the Padlock Ranch branding wagon. "I eventually convinced my wife to move to Montana. We sold our house, packed our



Casey Mott and Vic

belongings in a horse trailer and our first stop in Montana was the 1995 Montana Farm Bureau Convention at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown."

"While Rebecca started working with Montana Farm Bureau, I cowboied at various ranches including the Padlock, Sunlight, the CA and PK continuing all the while to assist my parents on their ranch in Simms," Mott said. This allowed him to get started with a herd of his own and become involved in Farm Bureau. Since he was working for the Ceded Strip Ranch in Big Horn County, he opted to join the Big Horn County Farm Bureau.

In 2006, Casey and his wife purchased a small place in Custer, Montana which they run as an extension of the larger Mott family ranch, which has since moved from Simms to Miles City. "We raise replacement heifers and calve out first-calf heifers. We have a summer lease in Forsyth and help with cow work at the

ranch in Miles City. Needless to say, we spend a lot of time pulling a stock trailer filled with either horses or cows."

Mott has served as Big Horn County Farm Bureau president and was elected to the MFBF Board of Directors in 2020.

"Today, you really have to get involved because there are so many new threats to agriculture—not only are there the traditional threats with weather, labor issues, land prices and markets, but now there are newer threats with a misinformed, skeptical public that are being fed lies by activists who want to see us gone."

Mott says he looks forward to serving the membership and forwarding the cause of Farm Bureau. "I think it's important to do more for the members, but it's also important for the members to get more involved. An organization is only as good as its members make it."



63rd Virtual Annual Agents' Meeting

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company recently held its 63rd Annual Agents' Meeting. The annual conference was held virtually due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19. However, like in years past, this meeting did move forward with recognizing those agents who achieved superior production and overall service during 2020.

Will Johnson of Missoula, MT, was honored with Mountain West's "Profitability Award" for being the most profitable agent over the span of the last five years.

Mountain West Farm Bureau agents have been serving customers across Montana and Wyoming for over 70 years and specialize in building personal relationships within their communities. The local, face-to-face communication and dedication to quality service are what set Mountain West agents apart from the rest.



Will Johnson,
Profitability Award Winner

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Insurance agent switches to broadcasting career

BY REBECCA COLNAR

The last name Bogden is well-known in agricultural circles around central Montana, since the family has been in the area over 100 years and has owned a packing house in Great Falls. Many Farm Bureau members know Randy Bogden as a Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company agent. He served the Great Falls community from 2006-2019 helping area residents make important decisions on their insurance coverage choices.

"Because I grew up in agriculture, working with Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance and its ties to agriculture was natural," Bogden noted. However, in 2019, Bogden decided it was time for a new challenge and wanted to try something different. As a side gig, he had been broadcasting sports for several years, an endeavor he thoroughly enjoyed.

"I had the ag gene in me, and also the broadcasting gene, so it seemed like the thing to do," Bogden noted. KMON had tried some different angles, but realized

the need to progress back to mainstream agriculture and ag reporting, which opened up an opportunity for Bogden.

The broadcaster explained that there are similarities between serving as an insurance agent and doing ag radio. "The similarities with insurance and agriculture are that members of agriculture put family first and believe in hard work and our country. Ag is a strong, faith-based community. It doesn't matter whether you are selling insurance or selling feed, there are the same values in agriculture. In broadcasting and insurance, you give ag people the information they need, and let them run with it. In the insurance end, the more people know, the more they can make educated decisions about protecting their families. Give people in agriculture information and let them decide what's best. They will do the right thing every time."

Bogden noted that the greatest challenge to switching careers was the technology involved. "The equipment

used in recording and what we do with computers had a learning curve for sure. Also, you are now in the public eye all the time, so you have to have thick skin. In agriculture, people are generous with compliments, but there are also those folks who are happy to tell you that you are wrong! But that's what makes America great is having the chance to express different opinions."

He admits that interacting with agricultural producers was his favorite part of both being an insurance agent and being involved in radio. "For instance, I was broadcasting from a bull sale and we did a remote from there. People were popping in to talk about their everyday lives. What

“ It’s interesting that during the pandemic when parents and grandparents in our rural areas couldn’t attend their kids’ ball game, they relied on radio to hear those games. Radio brought us closer together. ”



Randy Bogden moved seamlessly from being a Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company Agent to farm broadcaster for KMON out of Great Falls.

I am really hearing from individuals in ag right now is that what's happening in Washington, D.C. and what's happening in Helena directly impacts their lives. It's interesting that during the pandemic when parents and grandparents in our rural areas couldn't attend their kids' ball game, they relied on radio to hear those games. Radio brought us closer together."

Today, Bogden is part of the 560 KMON Pat and Randy show from 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. which focuses on news, weather, sports and entertainment. "I feel my role on this show is to put a smile on someone's face. On top of that, being ag director allows me to focus on agriculture. I get to work with organizations like Farm Bureau to get their message out. There is a lot of noise coming from the anti-ag folks, so everyone pro-ag needs to make their voices heard. I appreciate the opportunity in my role to help them, but more people who are pro-agriculture need to speak up."



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Branding safety

BY AUSTIN GRAZIER, *DIRECTOR OF AG SAFETY, MONTANA AGRICULTURE SAFETY PROGRAM*

Branding cattle is a tradition that has been around since ancient times. It's a cowboy's favorite time of the year. It means warm weather is ahead and is the culmination of all the work over the calving season. Branding can cover a weekend, a few days or couple of weeks depending on the size of your ranch. Although in Montana it's a great time to bring together friends and family, keep in mind branding has a serious purpose; to make your livestock identifiable by law and ensure that calves are properly castrated and vaccinated. In order to keep branding safe and fun for all involved, it's important to review safety tips and share them at the safety meeting you should hold before branding commences.

Brandings attract a variety of folks, from helpful neighbors to the city-slicker buddy. It is important before the day's work that expectations are set, roles are given, and training of how you, as the ranch owner, expect that task to be accomplished. Never assume "common sense." It was English philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge that said, "Common sense is an uncommon degree. It's what the world calls wisdom." Communicate

with everyone involved and set your expectations.

Branding is not the day to ride if you have never ridden and not the day to rope if you have never roped. In addition, it is not the day to bring the three-year-old colt that has 30 days of training and has not been ridden since last fall. (If you would like to bring your well-mannered colt, be sure

to ask the rancher before showing up.)

Set a clear schedule for the day. When will we start? When will lunch be served? When will we try to finish? Of course, times will be rough estimates but having a plan will help guide decisions throughout the day. Have basic safety materials and personal protective equipment available for your employees, volunteers, family and friends. This list should include a first aid kit (with burn treatment), eye wash (clean and not expired), gloves, a sharp knife and whet stone, pliers, drinking water (not just beer) and some means of getting out of the sun. As the owner/manager, you might consider having extra roping gloves on hand. We all know that one cowboy who will refuse to wear gloves even though his hand is taped up like a mummy from Egypt.

Do not forget about the spectators. Folks in eastern Montana might be scratching their heads as they read this, but ranchers closer to town know this all too well. Provide a designated area away from any potential dangers where town folks can spectate safely. Make it clear they need to stay away from the action.

Whether you are having a rope-and-drag branding, head-and-heel branding, calf table branding, or Nordfork branding, train your crew how to safely (for the calf's sake



Always be aware of your surroundings when you're branding, including where the other ropers are located.

PHOTOS BY REBECCA COLNAR



Hold a short meeting before branding commences to ensure everyone knows the safety protocols.

and for theirs) wrestle, fork or operate the table. Knowing the proper way to use the tools increases efficiency and safety, and decreases stress for all concerned.

For those that will be giving vaccinations, establish clear expectations on where and how to give the shot. Be sure to walk with the vaccination gun pointed downwards and preferably with the needle cap on. If you are in charge of inoculating calves, you are also in charge of not accidentally inoculating humans. (We all know how uncomfortable a blackleg vaccine can be.) Have a designated SHARPs container for disposal of damaged and old needles, and ensure the vaccine guns are working properly. For optimum efficacy, it is essential to keep the vaccine bottles—and even the filled vaccine guns during a break—in a cooler at all times.

Before your branding, make sure the

branding pot, hoses and propane tank are in good condition and ready to go without any leaks. Position the pot far enough away so that an excited horse or calf can't run into it. Ensure that the people handling the irons are knowledgeable about the brand being placed and know how to responsibly handle the irons.

Discuss with those that will be horseback what your expectations are including how to quietly work your cows and calves. This might entail only dragging calves when you have caught both heels and staying at a walk or trot. Consider designating a "lead roper" who can assign jobs and step in to handle a difficult situation. Ropers should be cautioned to make sure they're not endangering another roper before they throw. Ground crews should be advised

not to duck under a horse's neck or touch a horse going past.

If you pass the criteria listed above and are ready to rope and ride, be cognizant there are people watching and taking photos. Ensure what's done at your branding shines a positive light on agriculture.

Brandings can be the highlight of the year. Make sure this year's branding is a success by working to protect your ranch's valuable assets—you, your family, friends, neighbors, volunteers—and especially the calves. For more resources on branding safety and general ag safety information, visit www.mtagrisafety.com or contact Austin Grazier at (406) 587-3153 or austing@mtagrisafety.com.



Make sure the hoses, propane tank and branding pot are in good working order before you start with the branding, and be sure to place them out of harm's way.



Having a knowledgeable wrestling crew keeps a branding moving efficiently and safely.

The 2021 Montana Legislative Session

Virtual testifying, budget bills and so much more

BY RACHEL CONE, *DIRECTOR OF STATE AFFAIRS*

The 67th Montana Legislature has been one for the books thus far with a new administration, a majority of Republican legislators in both chambers, and navigating through the session amidst a pandemic. There was definitely a learning curve for all who participated. The session was off to a slow start in January, before ramping up to full speed by the time the Transmittal Deadline for general bills hit on March 3. At press time, the legislature is a few weeks past the Transmittal Deadline and the fast pace continues.

This session made good efforts to pivot through the pandemic to accommodate safety by allowing virtual participation for legislators and the public. As everyone made adjustments to ensure good work continued to get done in Helena, we found that good came from these challenges. Montana Farm Bureau members were able to join us from around the state, without even leaving the farm or ranch! We even had a rancher balance testifying before the Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee while calving out a heifer.

By the transmittal date, when all general bills had to have at least passed out of their first chamber, the Montana Farm Bureau had testified and taken action on 57 bills, in addition to supporting confirmations of relevant appointees and budgets for the Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. Since transmittal, there have been a handful of new bills, but the majority of the work has been focused on pushing bills to their finish line, either on the Governor's desk or to be indefinitely tabled.

Montana Farm Bureau's grassroots approach has served well this session; many policies passed during the 2020 Annual Convention of MFBF were timely for the bills introduced in this session. From pandemic aftermath to meat

processing, MFBF members had their voices heard.

Currently, MFBF has taken action on over 60 bills, with opposition to 17 of them, and of those, 13 have been killed while the others are still being heard and voted on. At press time, the session is not over yet, so there is still time to work on these bills to lobby them to the desired destination.

The session started off with a heavy tune for getting Montana on a path forward after the pandemic. The legislature went right to work with **Senate Bill 65: Revise civil liability laws, sponsored by Senator Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD10**. This bill limits liability to the owners of a premise if a person comes there and is infected with COVID-19, as long as that owner was not negligent. This bill is primarily intended to protect business owners, which would of course include farms and ranches. This bill was passed the legislature and the governor signed the bill into law! A win for all Montanans.

The new administration has been wonderful to work with. One of the many things MFBF appreciates is the desire to make Montana's business climate friendlier to Montanans and help our rural communities. This was done with a handful of tax bills that Montana Farm Bureau policy supports. The three bills MFBF focused on were **House Bill 303: Revise business equipment tax laws: Business Investment Grows (BIG) Jobs Act, sponsored by Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27; and House Bill 252: Non-refundable tax credit for employer-paid education of trade professionals**. These all work to decrease taxes for Montanans and help agriculture in numerous ways. Hopefully, they are heading to the governor's desk soon.

Water rights are a top priority for agriculture and MFBF advocated on many water bill this session. **Senate Bill 55: Revise the Process for Water Right Ownership Updates, sponsored by Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42**, was discussed in the Water Policy Interim Committee, and this bill is the result of that work. It amends the process for water right ownership updates to require the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to update its records of water right ownership within 30 days of receiving notification regarding a change in water right holdings. It is the personal responsibility of a property buyer and seller to file the proper paperwork concerning a transfer of water rights, and



Governor Gianforte visited the Anderson family's Hayhook Ranch in northern Park County to visit with farmers and ranchers about the Business Investment Grows (BIG) Jobs Act. Pictured are Senator Walt Sales (R) SD 35, MFBF Executive VP John Youngberg, Governor Gianforte, Sky Anderson, MFBF State Affairs Director Rachel Cone and Stryker Anderson.



this legislation requires the DNRC to keep those records up to date and accurate, in a timely manner. This bill has passed out of committee in the house and should be heading to the House floor.

As we look to the end of the session and hear different chatter on when the end date may be, we see the legislature has revised the schedule to save Saturdays

and work into May. Many bills are scheduled out to have hearings and be voted on. The legislators have a big job to finish up, and the addition of **House Bill 632: Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and COVID recovery funds, sponsored by Rep. Frank Garner (R) HD 7**, has been added to it. Decisions on where this large chunk

of change should be allocated is being worked through and hopefully has clarity as we work towards then of this session.

Stay up to date on information and updates from the 67th legislature through the many Montana Farm Bureau channels. We send weekly newsletters, Facebook updates, Boots on the Hill updates go to local newspapers, and more.

Calling on the Capitol

Giving legislators Ag Day buttons, visiting with the Department of Agriculture and hosting a successful virtual meeting with leaders was all part of Montana Farm Bureau's Calling on the Capitol on Ag Day March 23.

A small contingent of Farm Bureau leaders and staff met in person with Kristy Clark, Andy Fjeseth and Dani Jones at the Department of Agriculture to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act funding and other issues. The group spread good cheer around the Capitol,

"pinning" Ag Day buttons on legislators. All of the legislators had received a packet from MFBF with their Montana Ag Proud button, logoed hand sanitizer and some pens. Yellowstone County Farm Bureau members Drange Apiaries donated honey sticks for a Department of Agriculture Montana Made food products package that were given to the legislators.

The highlight was the well-attended virtual Calling on the Capitol where members hopped on Zoom to visit with Montana's Lieutenant Governor Kristen

Juras; Director of Agriculture Mike Foster; and Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Amanda Kaster. Also joining the virtual event was Senate Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee Chair Mike Lang and House Agriculture Committee Chair Josh Kassmier; and President of the Senate Mark Blasdel and Speaker of the House Wylie Galt.

The virtual Calling on the Capitol allowed farmers and ranchers to hear from state government leaders and were able to ask questions of these officials without having to travel across the state.



MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf presents a Montana Ag Proud button to Glenn Oppel, policy director for Governor Gianforte.



Chouteau County Farm Bureau President Jess Bandel with House Ag Committee Chair Josh Kassmier (R) HD 27.



Former District Director Ken Johnson, Lewis & Clark Farm Bureau County President Karl Christians, MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf and Executive Vice President John Youngberg on the Capitol grounds.



Nicole Rolf spreading Ag Day cheer to Senator Mike Lang (R) SD 17 with an Ag Day Button while Karl Christians looks on.



The MFBF delegation visits with the Department of Agriculture staff.

Ag Day meeting with Taiwanese delegation

The ability of Taiwan and Montana to work together on trade was the highlight of meetings this week in Helena with a Taiwanese trade delegation. Montana Farm Bureau President Hans McPherson, Vice President Cyndi Johnson and Executive Vice President John Youngberg, along with Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf and State Affairs Director Rachel Cone, had the opportunity to visit with Director General Daniel Kuo-Ching Chen and Vice Consul Ting K.T. Chen from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office based in Seattle.

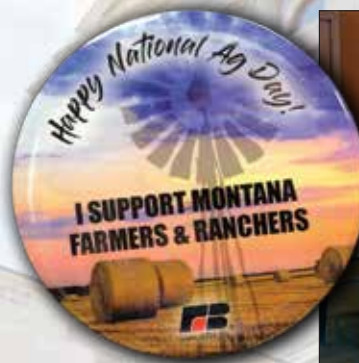
The Montana Farm Bureau was a sponsor of the reception, hosted by Attorney General Austin Knudsen, which honored the 67th Montana Legislature and recognized Montana's special friendship with Taiwan. In addition, Montana Farm Bureau had the opportunity to visit with the Taiwanese during an Ag Day lunch on

March 23.

Rolf said, "The Director General is very excited about expanding trade with Montana and strengthening our relationships. Montana Farm Bureau is always looking for ways to increase profitability for our farmer and rancher members, and one of the best ways to do that is to expand our foreign markets."

Taiwan is the Montana's fifth largest trading partner.

"Taiwan loves our high-quality wheat, and they have a keen interest in our beef, as well," said Rolf. "We hope to foster this



Montana Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Cyndi Johnson, Vice Consul Ting K.T. Chen, Director General Daniel Kuo-Ching Chen and MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf.

relationship which will be a great benefit for Montana's farmers and ranchers, as well as for the citizens of Taiwan."

Montana governor tours potato facilities in Ronan

BY SUSAN LAKE, NORTHWEST COUNTIES FARM BUREAU

It was a great honor to host a farm tour for Montana Governor Greg Gianforte on National Ag Day. We visited the original Lake Montana homestead where the family moved to from Idaho in 1934. We then ran down to the Lake Seed where Jan Lake gave a presentation in their tissue culture lab where they produce potato seed stock for the farm and mint that they produce for mint growers all over the United State and as far away as the United

Kingdom. Next, we visited their grain plant with three generations of the Lake Family, Don Lake, Dan Lake and Bridgette Lake Cheff. They produce most of the grain seed on their farm and ship it across the Northwest. The final stop was with Jack and Susan Lake at Lake Farms where the governor and his staff watched seed potatoes being shipped out to Washington State. A big thank you to the Governor for his time and his support of Montana's ag industry.



(Left) Governor Greg Gianforte and Susan Lake take a break from the tour. (Above) MFBF State Affairs Director Rachel Cone presents *Legacies*, the Farm Bureau history book, to the governor.



Governor Gianforte in the tissue cultures lab.

Ag Facts Competition for Ag Day

Fergus County Farm Bureau (including Petroleum County) held an Ag Facts Contest prior to Ag Day, March 23. Submitted ag facts were voted on and winners had the opportunity to read them on KXLO radio during Ag Week. Sixty-eight students submitted 88 entries from K-11th grades with the winners being **Ben Cundiff**, **Talmage Brooks**, **Titan Sherrodd**, **Caden Seaholm** and **Jace Sweeney**.

A few ag facts from Fergus County schools

Ben Cundiff, 5th grade: It takes 3.8 steers to make 72 footballs.
Caden Seaholm, 11th grade: The corn belt in peak production produces 4 percent more oxygen daily than the Amazon rainforest.



(Above) Boys and Girls Club members visit the Farm Bureau Insurance office to turn in their entries. Pictured are office staff Shirley Long, Tara Gumm and Connie Ahlgren with the kids. (Right) Joe Vanek, Fergus County Board member, congratulates Ben Cundiff on his winning entry and received a Farm Bureau t-shirt.



Phillips County Farm Bureau held an Ag Facts Contest for Ag Day. Winners for the contest, grades K-12, were **Erin Solberg**, **Brooklyn Perkins**, **Chase Albus**, **Carter Pippin** and **Beau Sudbrack**. The winners read their facts, which were aired on KMMR during Ag Week.

A few ag facts from Phillips County

Chase Albus, 4th/5th grade winner: One day's production for a high-producing dairy cow yields 4.8 pounds of butter or 8.7 gallons of ice cream or 10.5 pounds of cheese.
Carter Pippin, 6th/8th grade winner: The average farmer can feed up to 155 people. In comparison, the average farmer 60 years ago fed just 26 people.

Yellowstone County Farm Bureau held an Ag Facts Contest for K-12. Three students from the Huntley Project School in Worden (and members of the Pine Ridge Red Riders 4-H Club) read their ag facts on the air at KGHL.



Kade Oblender, Tucker Buckley and Westin Buckley sport their Farm Bureau t-shirts with Northern Ag Network's Taylor Brown, along with Josh Rath and Nick Tyler, KGHL radio.

Jasmine Torrabla, the kindergarten class teacher at Custer Elementary in Custer, took advantage of the Yellowstone County Farm Bureau Ag Facts Contest. She had her eight students learn how to do research by going through ag books. Each student came up with three facts. **Jodie Drange** and **Teddi Vogel** from Yellowstone County Farm Bureau went on National Ag Day to the classroom and had an ice cream party with the kids. In addition, they read the Accurate Ag Book of the Year, "*Tales of a Dairy Godmother*", and gave a copy to the classroom as a reward for their hard work. The kids loved sharing all the ag facts they learned.



(Left) Custer kindergarten class shows off the books they read to discover ag facts. (Right) Yellowstone County board member Jodie Drange reads *Tales of a Dairy Godmother* to the kindergarten class in Custer School.



A few ag facts from Yellowstone County/Custer School kindergarteners:

Ryker – Beetles are pests that can eat bean leaves.
Hudson – Sunflowers have many little flowers inside called florets.

Rural telephone companies offer broadband while serving communities

BY REBECCA COLNAR

When the Montana Farm Bureau held its hybrid Delegate Session at communities in small towns across the state, the majority of those sites were connected to rural telephone cooperatives. Whether it was 3 Rivers Communications, Mid-Rivers Communications, Northeastern Montana Telephone and others, county Farm Bureaus were seamlessly able to elect state officers and discuss and vote on policy. Although Farm Bureau members would have enjoyed the camaraderie of meeting in person, pandemic restrictions did not allow for a large gathering, so the decision was made for the 10 districts' delegates to meet in person while virtually connecting with the other districts as well as with the home office in Bozeman.

Mary Hill is on the local board of 3 Rivers Communications. "There are 13 independent telephone companies in the state, both cooperative and commercial," explained Hill. The newest is SiyCom, formerly the Blackfoot Exchange area of 3 Rivers Communications who sold the exchange to a tribally owned company last year.

"All of these rural cooperatives have fiber or at least high-speed internet to all of the schools in their exchanges. To me, these rural telephone companies are the lifeblood of our communities. We can now have access to anyone anywhere in the world and they can have access to our products as well as our services. Despite the pandemic, the high point was having access to quality broadband and it showed that having access to broadband was vital for education. If you didn't have it, you were left behind."

Hill noted that the telephone cooperatives in Montana were on the leading edge. "We can now provide service for veterans so they can reach mental health care from their hometowns instead of having to drive to Billings, Missoula or Great Falls. Health care has also changed in our rural communities. You can have an x-ray or ultrasound taken locally, but it can be seen by an expert in another city or country who can diagnose it then the local doctors can provide the care."

The rancher said that when kids weren't able to attend school in-person, 3 Rivers provided free high-speed internet to any student or teacher who needed it. They also provided free internet for those who were supposed to work remotely.

Although a common belief is that homes served by the national telecommunications companies would be more likely to have high-speed internet, the reality is that homes served by the national companies actually aren't on the radar—Montana isn't a large enough market.

"Meanwhile, a cooperative like 3 Rivers is investing \$300 million to put broadband into the ground so all of our residents, businesses and schools will have high-speed internet by 2024. We are at 70 percent of our customers having broadband right now," explained Hill.

"That's what rural cooperatives are for—to help local people thrive," Hill said. "If our communities and members don't thrive, our cooperative won't survive. Our cooperatives are committed to our communities and value their members."

Geoff Feiss is general manager of the Montana Telecommunications Association. The MTA represents the rural locally owned broadband providers serving Montana's rural communities as well as operations in larger areas. MTA members have over \$500 million

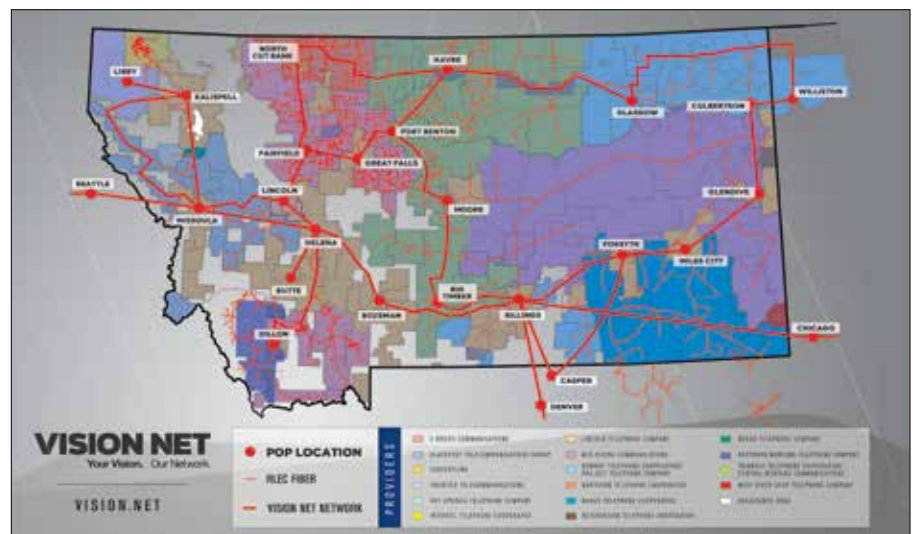
of fixed investment in place, and they invest nearly \$100 million each year in capital and operating expenditures. Twenty years ago, the rural telecommunications companies formed a consortium that provided a "backbone" internet access across the state. Today, Montana has over 25,000 miles of fiber optic facilities deployed throughout the state. MTA members provide access to high-speed broadband Internet service to the vast majority of their customers.

Interestingly, Montana has been ranked 50th in the country for broadband, but Feiss explained that doesn't really represent the entire picture. Montana is the fourth largest state in size and third smallest in population, so there can be many miles of infrastructure with few homes being served due to the low population density in rural Montana.

Feiss points out that although some statistics show only 60 percent of Montana having deployed broadband, the number is actually higher. Even though the fiber optic cable might go to a home, some households opt not to subscribe to it and some household prefer cheaper, slower options.

"The fact that the service is there but not being used definitely skews the figures," said Feiss.

Broadband has to do with the amount of data you can cram into bits per second. It had been thought that anything faster than





25 megabits per second to download and 3 megabits per second (25 X 3) to upload was acceptable.

"It used to be that everyone wanted downloads and wanted downloads faster than uploads. However, post-COVID, you have people working from home, people using telemedicine and students using distance learning. Everyone jumped on Zoom, so now you need fast uploads as well as downloads," Feiss explained. "There is now a greater demand for symmetrical band width. Now you're considered unserved if it's 25 megabits x 25 megabits; the new target is 100 x 100."

He noted that although there are other means of getting data delivered, fiber optics are still proving to be the best system, even beating out satellites. "They are the gold standard of media transmission of data. They last a long time and truly can carry any speed you want."

Feiss echoed Hill regarding the coverage of rural telecommunication cooperatives versus big out-of-state companies.

"The bigger national companies'

shareholders don't get a lot of return on investment by having broadband services in Montana, a state that has less than one household per square mile. However, if you're served by our members, chances are you have excellent broadband. In fact, 100 percent of Lincoln Telephone will be served by the end of the year as will Southern Montana Telephone," Feiss noted.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, MTA members provided free hotspots, set up services, and worked to identify households with students or teachers who needed access. "We turned up the broadband so they could engage," Feiss said, adding that local companies are invested in their communities. "They invest in high school football by building a scoreboard, and go to church with their customers. Their customer service is superior to any large national company."

With Montana receiving \$910 million of discretionary funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Gov. Greg Gianforte's administration has proposed using \$350 million of that money for broadband infrastructure.

"Deploying broadband to our rural and frontier communities is foundational for our new and evolving economy," Gianforte said. "It's time we give rural Montana access to the same opportunities that the rest of Montana has by increasing access to reliable broadband throughout the state."

Sen. Jason Ellsworth, (R) SD 43, is the sponsor of SB 297, a bill known as the "ConnectMT Act" which will create a state broadband task force that would establish Montana broadband deployment laws and distribute the money with a grant program, including an immediate effective date and a termination date. At press time, SB 297 had passed the Senate and was in the House Energy, Technology and Federal Relations Committee.

Feiss noted that it's important to create a standard that will not be short term, but will serve the public well into the future. With the new influx of funding in the state, it's hoped the state will make the right decisions to best serve the public with their broadband needs for decades to come.



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Ranchers' partners: Working cow dogs

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Watching good cow dogs work is a marvel to behold, observing their intuition, responsiveness and energy. In Manhattan, Montana, rancher Tim Feddes owns several outstanding working dogs and one named Mike has received national attention. Mike was a runner up in the American Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year competition, sponsored by Purina. Out of many dogs entered, Mike was a finalist; quite an honor for a pooch from Big Sky Country.

The Feddes Ranch, lying close to the western Montana town of Manhattan, was started 55 years ago when Tim's father, Marvin Feddes started raising registered Herefords after serving for three years in the Army. Once Tim graduated from high school and his brother, Dan, graduated from college, they returned to the scenic ranch and have been instrumental in breeding quality purebred Herefords and growing grain and high-end horse quality hay.

Feddes, who is a Gallatin County Farm Bureau member, became interested in ranching with dogs when his wife, Tami, gave him an Australian Shepherd—and although he enjoyed working with that

breed decided to look into Border Collies. "I really like their trainability and natural instinct to work livestock that is bred into them," the rancher commented. "They are used for all of our cow work. In summer, we do a lot of pasture rotations, and since some of the topography doesn't allow easy gathering on a four-wheeler, I can send the dogs to gather the cattle and calmly move the herd to the next pasture. When we bring the cows in for vaccinating, we have a dog or two along. In the spring when we are artificially inseminating our yearling heifers, the dogs help sort cattle and will move them up to the chute. When we move cattle, the dogs take the place of a couple of people—they can cover so much ground."

Gentle cows can become over protective of a newborn calf, so the ranch dogs work with Feddes to keep him safe, and calmly transfer the new mothers and calves to a different location. "Mike is really good about that. He knows to give the cow enough distance so they move away, and not so close she becomes agitated and wants to fight."

Although much of the dog's ability is instinctual, training starts when they are pups to learn what behavior is and isn't

acceptable. Feddes starts training when he feels a dog is mentally mature, generally 10-12 months. He explained that you can use the dog's instinct for your benefit.

"You can send a Border Collie out a long way, as their instinct is to gather the cattle," said Feddes. "I like a dog that handles livestock as calmly as possible."

As for Mike, Feddes first saw his mother working at the National Finals Cattle Dog Trials, was impressed with what he saw, and spoke for one of her pups. Although he originally hoped to get a female, he ended up with Mike. "He took a long time to bond, but once things started working out, he



Mike, a runner up in American Farm Bureau's Farm Dog of the Year, is serious about his work at the Feddes Ranch.

➤ Judging the dogs

Beth Blevins, a large animal veterinarian from Ronan, as well as a district chair of the MFB Women's Leadership Committee, was selected to be one of the judges for the preliminary rounds of the AFBF Farm Dog of the Year Competition.

"The farm and ranch dogs were judged on how they contribute to the running of the ranch and how they would help the owners do their agricultural jobs," Blevins said. "The animals had to work well with the owners and work the livestock quietly. We reviewed photos, videos and even drone footage. The drone footage really showed how the dogs worked."

As a vet, Blevins looked at how the owners cared for the dog—if they talked about the types of immunizations and deworming the dog got as he got his shots, that animal scored higher than someone who just wrote, "He got his shots."

"Some of the videos showed an older dog working with younger dogs, almost like the older dog was telling the younger ones what to do," Blevins said.

Blevins said she enjoyed being a judge. "A variety of dog breeds were submitted for the contest but the animals that scored higher were more than pets—they were partners on the farm."

came around pretty fast, so now we get along well. Currently, I own four working dogs, as I like to have two reliable ones and two coming along. It's generally good to have a couple of dogs if you're using them for herding, but make sure they're not ones who are going to compete with each other."

A well-trained dog can be a huge help, and often detractors become believers when they see a well-trained dog work. "When I got my first dog, my dad had never used dogs, so I started using them gradually. When dad saw how well they did, he'd start telling me to 'go get the dogs.' Now, we don't do anything with the cattle without the dogs."

Interested in using dogs? Look for a well-bred one. Feddes says it's ideal if you can watch the parents work, as often pups will work similarly to their parents. There are also videos and knowledgeable people who are happy to share their insights. Feddes will work a young dog on a few sheep so he can see how a pup will work before working with cattle.

"Once he's working well, I will take him with me to do easy jobs, but I will also bring an older dog along. That way if the job becomes more difficult than he can handle, I can have the experienced dog do the job. The worst thing you can do is hurt a pup's confidence; you always want to be there to encourage and help. The quieter you can handle cows and dogs, the better it is. When you move cattle, you want them to respect the dog, because they will

➤ Farm Dog of the Year

Tim Feddes saw the notice about the American Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year, sponsored by Purina, and he thought since Mike does so much to help everyone on the ranch, he should be entered. "My daughter was all excited as she is a fan of my dogs. She took photos of Mike working bull calves and we sent that in as well as answered the questions about what the dog does; he came up a finalist," Feddes noted. "It was a nice surprise and an honor for Mike to get the credit. A lot of these dogs don't get the credit they deserve. A good dog really is useful."

Want your ranch dog to follow in the footsteps—er, pawprints—of Mike? Farmers are invited to submit nominations for the **2022 Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year Contest**, supported by Purina. This is the fourth year of the contest, which celebrates farm dogs and the many ways they support farmers and ranchers in producing nutritious food for families and their pets across America.

The grand prize winner – Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year – will win a year's worth of Purina dog food and \$5,000 in prize money. The winner will be recognized at a Farm Dog of the Year award ceremony at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in January 2022. Up to four regional runners-up will each win \$1,000 in prize money. Visit fb.org for more information.



Owner Tim Feddes and Mike spend a lot of time together working on the ranch in Manhattan.

move off easily. If a dog is harassing the cattle too much, they will want to fight."

"When you're training, the reward is allowing them to continue working," Feddes explained. "If they do something wrong, I'll stop and correct the problem, then have the dog work again. When you're training, you work more with their mind to get them to do what you want. Remember that voice commands work

well, but when the dog is far off, whistles carry a lot farther."

The rancher added that even though Mike is serious about his work, he knows when he's off-duty and will happily play with the grandkids.

"In general, working dogs have been bred for their intelligence. They are just really nice dogs to have around."



Montana Ag in the Classroom Foundation takes off with new director

BY LINDSAY OREM

Greetings from Wolf Creek. I am extremely happy to be in the position of executive director of the Montana Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. After spending 21 years in various K-12 classrooms teaching, and a lifetime as a rancher's daughter and then a ranch wife, I am blessed to have transitioned into a position that allows me to contribute to both worlds simultaneously.

My husband is a ranch manager and marketer for a purebred Black Angus ranch. He has managed to work commercial cattle into the ranch as well because he truly enjoys all aspects of raising cattle. He loves genetics and nutrition and does a phenomenal job teaching our three teenage daughters about his passions for cattle. Our daughters attend Cascade Schools and are active in 4-H, FFA, rodeo, volleyball and basketball along with youth group and other volunteer activities. The



Lindsay Orem

girls and I help whenever and wherever we can. From calving to branding, weaning, shipping, managing paperwork, planning for herd health needs, growing hay and working with employees, the ranch is a family affair with help from

outside. I am thankful for the role that I have on the ranch. Truly there are a few things I learned teaching that I can use on the ranch. During my teaching years, I was primarily a special education teacher. Designing instruction for a wide variety of students is a task I did daily and one I considered the most enjoyable aspects of my job. Teaching is a tough job. It's my goal to take my experience in the classroom and my passion for agriculture, and help provide educators with fun, interactive, low-prep lessons that can be used virtually and in person.

Agricultural literacy is critical to our youth and the industry. We have a



variety of youth in Montana with varying knowledge about agriculture. Some children in our state have made bread from scratch while other children only know bread comes from the store. Some children have raised an animal and seen its carcass hang in a meat locker, checking out the marbling and thickness of cuts, while others only know the freezer in their garage is where to get their favorite frozen burritos or chicken nuggets. It's my job to not only close that gap but open eyes to the possibilities of agriculture. Let's not only learn about wheat and why grass-fed beef tastes different than grain fed



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beef, but let's learn about where wheat is grown and what jobs are involved in getting it from the field to the table. I am excited to show how livestock producers and grain producers are dependent on each other and what products are actually raised in Montana. Kids that are raised in Montana should be specialists about their state including the history, the landmarks and the industries that contribute to its economy.

“ I am looking forward to meeting the needs of our educators. I hope to develop cross-curricular units for their use. We can reinforce math and language arts standards, introduce science and history topics, and help bring learning to life. ”

I am looking forward to meeting the needs of our educators. I hope to develop cross-curricular units for their use. We can reinforce math and language arts standards, introduce science and history topics, and help bring learning to life. When we show kids that agriculture is more than growing a crop or raising an animal, we



open a world of possibilities to them.

I can't wait to get out and about, visit classrooms and agricultural sites. I am anxious to help educators and our kids see all that is around them in this great state. Look for me on social media as I am hoping to feature great student projects. Let's work together.

One great way you can help right now is to take part in the voluntary Ag Literacy in Montana Schools Check Off Program

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Choose the Voluntary

AG LITERACY IN
MONTANA SCHOOLS

check-off program.

Line 18c
on your tax forms provides
funding for agricultural curriculum
in Montana classrooms.

by going to Line 18c on your tax form or 69c on the long form. You can do this using tax filing software or ask your tax professional. This is a wonderful way support ag literacy and help us grow our program.

Follow the Ag in the Classroom Foundation on Facebook, Instagram and even You Tube for more ways to get involved.



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ACE program continues to provide advocacy, media training

BY REBECCA COLNAR

The ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) program is designed to empower Farm Bureau members to actively advocate on key industry issues and be confident, effective leaders in their County Farm Bureau and local communities. The program emphasizes leadership development, issue education and the engagement of local communities.

The ACE program appealed to Shay Richter who was “looking for something to better myself professionally, learn more about Farm Bureau and help me with communication skills with my job.”

Richter works with more than 45 farmers each day for Wilbur-Ellis as an agronomist, although he is quick to point out that he considered himself their “Farmassist” as he drives around the Golden Triangle talking about fields, crops and soil. Richter grew up on a medium-size farm in Joplin and still remembers the hard work involved in farming.

Richter feels its important to stay involved with groups like Farm Bureau when you’re working with farmers. He

serves as a co-chair of District 8 on the MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, he has attended the YF&R Calling on the Capitol and has helped Chouteau County Farm Bureau with community outreach.

After attending two ACE sessions in January and March, Richter said the one thing he has come away with is a real appreciation for Farm Bureau history. “I think it should be mandatory for every Farm Bureau member to read the *Legacies* book to have a better understanding where Farm Bureau comes from as well as learning about Montana agricultural history. It’s a great book and most people would enjoy reading it.”

He noted that part of the seminar that concentrated on working with the media was instrumental in developing a video voicing opposition to the Big Sky Heritage Act.

His goal—and class project—will be finding ways to explain to associate Farm Bureau members why the organization is important, and encourage them to increase their level of membership.

Another project will be encouraging county Farm Bureaus to engage on their Facebook page and inviting associate members to join that page to see the good that Farm Bureau does on the county, state and national levels.

Richter said he may possibly apply new skills learned in ACE toward future involvement in Montana legislature. “Though that may be a few years off, it is never too early to start training.”

After her first two ACE trainings Jodie Drange said her brain was “fried in a good way.”

“I decided to apply for ACE because it taught leadership and advocacy,” said Drange. “My husband and I have a commercial beekeeping business, and I saw that the bee laws kept changing. I realized that I needed to speak up and get involved in advocacy.”



The Yellowstone County Farm Bureau member said the first ACE session with natural resources industry advocate Bruce Vincent was eye-opening. “He explained that you don’t have to be the person to force change, but you can be the ripple that starts that change.”

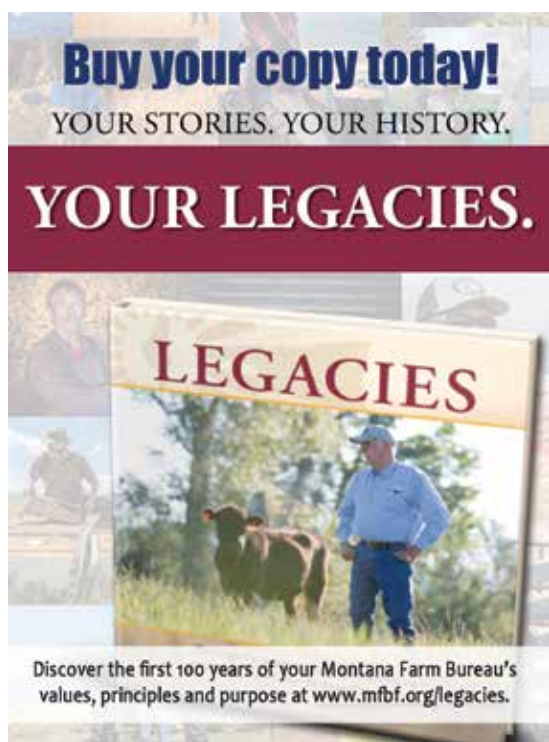
The second session covered media training and Drange said although she has been on many television programs due to her bees and meat goats, the training gave her more competency and ideas on how to interview better.

“Even though you are being interviewed, the reporters will often want to tell their story; you want to make sure they tell your story. Ensure the points you want them to use are expressed, and repeat yourself,” Drange advised.

ACE has already expanded Drange’s knowledge about Farm Bureau. “Kathy Teter invited me to a Yellowstone County board meeting, and I ended up being voted onto the board, so I became more familiar with Farm Bureau. In ACE, we started reading *Legacies* with the author, Laura Nelson. Now I really have a clue about Farm Bureau. I’m all in.”

Drange grew up in Ohio and although she wasn’t on a farm, she was involved in 4-H and had a keen interest in agriculture. She met her husband at Ohio State University in 1986. The couple moved to Montana in 1988. “My husband had bees since 1980, and he’s worked for other beekeepers, but in 2010 we started Drange Apiary full-time. We own 5000 colonies—and raise meat goats, selling some to 4-H and FFA kids.”

What she hopes to glean from ACE is to achieve new leadership and communication skills, and learn how to be a good advocate. “I want to use my skills to make a difference,” Drange said.



Discover the first 100 years of your Montana Farm Bureau’s values, principles and purpose at www.mfbf.org/legacies.

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COUNTY NEWS

(For News on Ag Day, see page 19.)

Northwest Counties co-sponsored a legislative forum in Ronan with Lake County Commissioners, Lake County Democrats and the Lake County Republican Central Committee. Josh Senecal, president of the Northwest Counties Farm Bureau, moderated the live session. The session was in-person as well as virtual, with close to 100 people attending.

Members participating from the House of Representatives were Mark Noland (HD10); Joe Read (HD93) and Linda Reksten (HD12) along with senators Greg Hertz (SD6) and Dan Salomon (SD47). The legislators talked about a variety of bills in the 2021 Legislative Session.



Northwest Counties co-sponsored a legislative forum at the Ronan Community Center.

Phillips County members went to the Saco School March 25 to read Ag Accurate Books to K-1 and 2-3 grade classrooms. In addition, they conducted an ag safety training for 4th-5th graders and provided farm safety training to junior high and high school students.



(Left) MFBF District 7 Director Joy DePuydt poses with the K-1 class after reading *Tales of a Dairy Godmother*. (Right) Tom DePuydt, Phillips County, visits with Saco School students about ATV safety.

Lewis & Clark County had MFBF Lobbyists Nicole Rolf and Rachel Cone to the home of their president, Karl Christians, for a legislative update. They are planning an interactive event with a virtual Farm Fair and local schools.

Cascade County is helping Chouteau County send out post cards informing residents of the negative impacts of the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area (BSNHA) proposal. (See Ed Bandel's editorial, page 4.)

Northwest Counties met to set their budget for the 2021.



Rosebud/Treasure County Farm Bureau held an Ag Safety Program March 4 in Hysham with speaker Austin Grazier, Montana Ag Safety Program; Randy Hurst, Torgerson's LLC and Kris Miller, Vanishing Breed Risk Management.

Gallatin County held a board/program planning meeting March 16.

Carbon/ Stillwater had a virtual board meeting and their third installment of board training on March 16 with Chelcie Cargill providing a "mini-ACE" program.

On February 25, National Give to the FFA Day, **Cascade County** gave a check for \$475 to both the Cascade and Simms FFA Chapters for preparation of high school students for careers in agriculture. The Farm Bureau honored two students, Jean Blackman of the Cascade FFA and Randi Hart of the Simms FFA, with \$200 each for receiving the National American FFA Degree at the national convention.



Lee and Carol Signalness, Cascade County Farm Bureau, present a check to the Simms FFA for National Give to the FFA Day.

Low-Stress Cattle Handling Workshop

District 4, which includes **Big Horn, Carbon/Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Yellowstone Counties**, is hosting a Low-Stress Cattle Handling Workshop with well-known livestock and horse trainer Curt Pate. Pate, who lives in Ryegate, will share his expertise on working cattle in a calm and efficient manner. The event is slated for Saturday morning, July 10, at Billings Livestock Commission (BLS) and will be free to Farm Bureau members. Look on the MFBF Facebook page for more information as the event gets closer or contact Casey Mott, caseymott@midrivers.com.

Renew your brand

Did you know if you have a registered brand, you need to rerecord it this year? Whether it's for a horse, cow or just a family nostalgia brand, 2021 marks the Decennial Montana Department of Livestock Brand Rerecord. During this time, the Department of Livestock will be rerecording roughly 55,000 brands. The Brand Rerecord period started on January 1 of 2021 and ends on December 31st of 2021. Brands not rerecorded prior to midnight on December 31 will become inactive. There will be no grace period for brands filed after that date. The fee to rerecord a brand for the next ten years is \$175 per brand.

Rerecord notices were sent to brand owners in December of 2020. If you did not receive a notice, please contact the Montana Department of Livestock Brands Enforcement Division at (406) 444-1278.

There are three ways to rerecord a brand:

1. Online using the following link: <https://app.mt.gov/accessgov/liv/Forms/Page/liv/rerecord/1>.

Please note that your Brand ID number and a credit/debit card are required. There is also an additional surcharge to process payment online.

2. By mail at the address below:

**MT Dept of Livestock
ATTN: 2021 Rerecord
PO BOX 202011
Helena, MT 59620-2011**

3. Drop-off at the Helena Office

For any questions regarding Brand Rerecord, please visit <http://liv.mt.gov/Brands-Enforcement/Brands-Re-Record-2021> or call the department (406) 444-1278.



Women's Leadership Committee

PHOTO Contest

2020 WINNERS



Congratulations to the winners of our 2020 Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Photo Contest.

2020 Photo Contest Winners:

1. AG FAMILIES CATEGORY: BONNIE JONES
2. COMMUNITY CATEGORY: BONNIE JONE
3. ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY: CATHERINE KIRCHNER
4. AG LABOR CATEGORY: ALISON MASSAR

Stay tuned to Facebook and the Summer Spokesman for details on the 2021 WLC Photo Contest.

Young Farmer and Rancher News

National Collegiate Discussion Meet goes virtual (again)

The American Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet is generally held during the Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference or FUSION Conference. This year, the Discussion Meet was held during the virtual FUSION Reimagined Conference March 11-13. Kelly Rehm, a member of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Club at Miles Community College, represented Montana in the competition.

The Discussion Meet simulates a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic.

Rehm was born and raised in Miles City and is a sophomore at MCC working toward an Associate's Degree in Ag and Natural Resources Pathway. She grew up ranching outside of Miles City on her family's Cross Four Ranch.

"I initially started in the YF&R Discussion Meet as a freshman, mostly because my sister had competed in the past," Rehm noted. "I competed at the state YF&R competition and enjoyed the experience so much, I decided to compete again."

The questions in the first two rounds centered around if big data is a big solution or big exposure, and how to build new foreign trading partners. Rehm researched information from multiple sources, including interviewing local ranchers involved in international trade.

Since Rehm had previously competed in an in-person discussion meet, she said competing virtually was very different than in person.

"There was no opportunity to visit with the other competitors before or after the competition. I definitely prefer an in-person event," said Rehm. She noted, however, that even though the event was virtual, it was still a great experience.

"I liked hearing new perspectives of the other competitors. They all brought their own viewpoints to answer the questions which led to very interesting discussions."



Calling all Young Farmers and Ranchers

– By J.M. Peck,

MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair

The average age of the American farmer and rancher is well over 50. This should be concerning for everyone as our farmers and ranchers are the first and probably most important part of our food supply chain. With every challenge comes an opportunity and there are lots of opportunities for young farmers and ranchers. It is not an easy path when considering soaring land values, rising input costs and volatile commodity prices, but it is a worthwhile endeavor and a necessary enterprise.

The last 12 months have been difficult for everyone. In the agricultural community we have spent years discussing how we can better reach our consumers. As the pandemic spiked and fear grew, we saw empty shelves at our grocery stores; something I have never seen in my lifetime. An unexpected consequence has been consumers have been coming to us to learn more about their food and where it comes from. We have seen people flocking to our rural communities to enjoy the openness some of us may take for granted.

It is easy to view some of these shifts and changes negatively but we must not. With every challenge comes an opportunity to share the story of agriculture and welcome new neighbors. It is time for young farmers and ranchers to lead our industry forward, embracing new technologies and sustainable practices while maintaining the traditions of agriculture and continuing to feed the world. This may seem like a daunting challenge to a young person ready to start a career and a life in this business, but we are not alone. In addition to family, friends and neighbors there are many ag-focused organizations ready to offer a helping hand. Montana Farm Bureau is the largest ag organization in Montana with the American Farm Bureau being the largest general ag organization nationally. They work to enhance the viability of agriculture and represent the economic, social, environmental and educational interests of our members, ag business and rural communities. They have many programs that are focused directly on young people.

I am proud to call myself a Farm Bureau member and chair of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, helping represent young farmers and ranchers from our great state. If you are a young person pursuing a career in agriculture or are looking for ways to become more involved in our industry, please consider a membership today. Feel free to reach out to me at jmpeck@trappercreek ranch.com.



Winners of “Montana Ag in Color” Drawing Contest announced

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation has announced the winners of the Montana Youth Agriculture Literacy program drawing contest. “Montana Ag in Color” was developed in recognition of National Ag Week, March 21-27, as a creative competition for elementary school children. Each grade was given a different agricultural theme ranging from “Grains of Montana” and “Cattle in Agriculture” to noxious weeds, farm safety and ag-related careers. One winner was selected from each grade with judges selecting one drawing from the winners to receive the “Farm Bureau Proud” designation.

Kindergarten – Rowdy Beil,
Saco Elementary, Phillips County

First Grade – Colby Mulder,
Ekalaka Elementary, Carter County

Second Grade – Anna Gunderson,
Choteau Elementary, Teton County

Third Grade – Audrey Lobdell,
Choteau Elementary, Teton County

Fourth Grade – Jed Dixon,
SY School, Custer County

Fifth Grade – Andrew Major,
Choteau Elementary, Teton County

Sixth Grade – Abram Martin,
Choteau Elementary, Teton County

Colby Mulder received the
“Farm Bureau Proud” designation.

Entries were judged by the Montana Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee on agricultural content, originality, neatness and reproducibility.

“A big thank you to those on the selection committee for the Montana Ag in Color drawing contest, which welcomes kindergarten through sixth-grade students,” said MFB Women’s Leadership Committee Chair, Carla Lawrence. “It is always an enjoyable but difficult task to select winners with all the talented artists who entered the contest. We hope the students who participated had fun



and learned more about agriculture.”

This year, the classrooms of the winning students were treated to a pizza party, courtesy of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation.

Winning entries will be printed and distributed on usable items and educational materials. They will be posted on the Montana Farm Bureau website and Facebook page.

May is Membership Month

May is Membership Month which serves as a salute to our members as well as a time for member recruitment. MFBF and its volunteer members do an amazing job advocating for agriculture and educating others about agriculture. Membership month is the perfect time to get the word out regarding why our members are Farm Bureau Proud!

Membership month will be divided into four weeks:

May 1-8 – Farm Bureau Proud Week

May 9-15 – Member Appreciation Week (Receive prizes!)

- May 10 – Recognize volunteers who serve on **MFBF Advisory Committees**
- May 11 – Recognize **Student Members**
- May 12 – Recognize **Voting Members**
- May 13 – Recognize our **MWFBMIC agents and staff**
- May 14 – Recognize **County Farm Bureau Leaders**

May 16-22 – Member Benefits Week (Save money!)

May 23-29 – Recruitment Week (Join us!)

Keep watching the Montana Farm Bureau Facebook page and check out the May News Brief (MFBF's newsletter for ag producer members) for more information.



Foundation News

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation has established a mini-grant program of up to \$1,000 for use in educational forums or activities promoting agriculture. Recently, three organizations in Beaverhead, Lewis & Clark and Gallatin Counties have been awarded mini-grants.



The **Beaverhead Conservation District/ Montana Range Committee** received a mini-grant to help the organization hold Montana Range Days. The Range Committee hosted Range Days in 2019, but had to cancel their 2020 event due to the pandemic. However, they are hoping to hold it in 2021, with the grant helping them to “provide a comfortable venue, good food, prizes and the best possible education for our participants.” Montana Range Days offers workshops, speakers and tours to teach youth and adults about rangeland ecosystems. It will be held at the Beaverhead County Fairgrounds.

The **Lewis & Clark County Extension** received a mini-grant for a “Map My Drone Congregation Area” (DCA) for 4-H youth to become involved with a project regarding honeybees. With researcher Julia Mahood in Georgia, Extension will be creating a curriculum to help youth and educators participate in the Map My DCA citizen science project. In the past it's been difficult for beekeepers to locate DCAs but with the advent of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) the are easier to locate. Students will learn to survey potential DCA sites using UAVs or ball, hypothesize potential DCA based on local topography and apiary locations, and more.

The **Gallatin Valley Ag Committee**, a joint committee made up of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce and the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, are planning to host their farm fair, which was cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020. The farm fair, which usually is a three-day event at a ranch with more than 600 fourth grade students, needs to be virtual due to COVID restrictions. The committee hopes to provide videos of some of the traditional farm fair stations. The Montana Drone Company has offered to video the presenters just like they were performing live presentations at the ranch. The videos will then be posted on the Gallatin Farm Fair website, gvfarmfair.org.



Otium Brewery, who received a \$10,000 grant from the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Centennial Community Initiative Fund, is now open for business. Owners Dustin and Hannah Strong spent more than a year renovating a building and developing a brewery in downtown Miles City; in early March, they opened their doors to the microbrew-enjoying public. They are pleased the majority of their hops and barley come from Montana farmers. The CCI grant bought the boil kettle, mash tun, glycol chiller and kegs, a fact which the Strong's appreciate so much they have the MFB Foundation named on a wall in the brewing area.

Farm Bureau & Polaris...a winning combination!

Polaris continues sponsorship of Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet Competition

The Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee is excited to announce that for the seventh consecutive year, Montana Polaris is the sponsor of the YF&R Discussion Meet, awarding a Ranger® Side by Side UTV to the winner of that competition. The Discussion Meet, which is open to Farm Bureau members age 18-35, is meant to simulate a committee meeting with ideas discussed and solutions developed. The MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet will take place in November during the 2021 MFBF Annual Convention in Billings.

"We are excited and honored to have Polaris and our Montana Polaris Dealers sponsoring our Young Farmers and Ranchers again this year and donating the Grand Prize Ranger for our 2021 Discussion Meet winner," said MFBF YF&R Chair J.M. Peck. "We are looking forward to our annual convention and especially the Discussion Meet competition."

Not only will the winner of the Montana YF&R Discussion Meet receive a Polaris Ranger, but they will also receive an expense-paid trip to compete in the national YF&R Discussion Meet January 2022 in Atlanta, GA. For more information on the MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet and to view the 2021 Discussion Meet questions, visit www.mfbf.org or contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.

Thank you to these participating Polaris dealers for supporting our Young Farmers and Ranchers. Be sure to stop by these dealerships and check out their inventory!

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Helena Cycle Center - Helena
Jesco Marine & Power Sports - Kalispell
Kurt's Polaris - Seeley Lake
Lewistown Honda & Polaris - Lewistown

Montana Power Products - Ronan
Redline Sports, Inc - Butte
Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City
Russell Motorsports - Missoula
Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls
Yellowstone Polaris - Billings



2021 Discussion Meet Questions Announced

1. How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YF&R members and increasing participation in YF&R programs?
2. COVID revealed several cracks involving the processing of livestock. How can Farm Bureau policy support easing government regulations to ensure long-term economic viability for local animal processing facilities, while ensuring the health of workers and that a healthy product is still delivered to consumers?
3. Studies show more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health issues. What can farmers, ranchers and Farm Bureau do to proactively promote good mental health in both themselves and their communities?
4. Agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries. What can we, as young farmers and ranchers, do to create a more preventative, rather than reactive, approach to farm safety in our communities?
5. As the world population increases, so will the need for renewable resources. On a local level and across the globe, how can Farm Bureau help farmers and ranchers continue to increase their efficiency in the use of valuable resources and transition to "Green Energy" practices on their farm or ranch?

YF&R members say THANKS to participating dealers.



Tales of the Dairy Godmother — By Viola Butler

REVIEW BY JOY DEPUYDT, MFBF DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR

In *Tales of a Dairy Godmother*, a young boy named Chuck wishes he had all the ice cream he could ever eat but his mother insists he carries out his chores before he is given any ice cream. In pops his "Dairy Godmother" who takes Chuck on a little journey to a dairy farm to get firsthand knowledge of all the hard work that goes into producing ice cream. Chuck is shown how cows are milked in a dairy barn and how important it is to keep the facility clean. He also is taught how milk is tested to ensure it is safe for us to consume.

Chuck gets firsthand experience in caring for the dairy cows and learns the importance of providing a nutritious, balanced diet to the cows and keeping them healthy. He gets to see a newborn

calf and finds out cows must be milked twice a day. Chuck must help clean up after the cows, but he learns all this hard work pays off when he gets to eat some fresh ice cream. Once he returns home, Chuck promptly takes out the trash because he realizes it isn't very hard work compared to taking care of dairy cows and the reward is, to his delight, more ice cream.

Tales of a Dairy Godmother is very well illustrated book that engages the reader throughout the story and sheds a positive light on the dairy industry as well as providing education as to where milk and ice cream come from. It also teaches children valuable life lessons. I encourage you to read it to your family!



The Phillips County Farm Bureau read this book, along with other Ag Accurate Books, during Ag Week to kids in local county schools. It was very well received.



For more information on Accurate Ag Books, including *Tales of a Dairy Godmother* and other offerings from Feeding Minds Press, visit agfoundation.org. The American Farm Bureau Foundation offers a wide variety of learning tools, including the Ag Literacy Catalog and weekly At Home Learning lessons.



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Gallatin Recreation - Bozeman
Helena Cycle Center - Helena
Jesco Marine & Power Sports - Kalispell
Kurt's Polaris - Seeley Lake
Lewistown Honda & Polaris - Lewistown
Montana Power Products - Ronan
Redline Sports, Inc - Butte
Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City
Russell Motorsports - Missoula
Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls
Yellowstone Polaris - Billings

*Calling all
YF&R members!*

**Want to learn more
about how to win one
of these?**



COMPETE & WIN!

The winner of the 2021 Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet will be taking home a new Polaris Ranger 570!

For more details go to www.mfbf.org
or contact Sue Ann Streufert at
sueanns@mfbf.org or (406) 587-3153.